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Case 8390

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of

France et al.

Serial No. 09/849,684

Confirmation No. 8926

Filed: May 4, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1746

Examiner: Joseph L. Perrin

Title: SYSTEMS FOR CONTROLLING A DRYING CYCLE IN A DRYING APPARATUS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 24, 2003, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the amendments and accompanying remarks while examining the application.

AMENDMENTS

In The Specification

Please amend the paragraph on page 18, lines 7-19 as following:

Sub B1

The condition sensor 20 can be a sensor capable of measuring one or more of the following conditions: time, fabric load mass, temperature, lipophilic fluid flow from the drying apparatus, drying apparatus drum torque, inlet drying air temperature, outlet drying air temperature, and combinations thereof. The condition sensor 20 could be a humidity sensor, a mass load sensor, a temperature sensor, a timer, a fluid flow sensor, a torque sensor, etcetera. The condition sensor 20 is electrically coupled and can transmit a signal to a signal processor 30. Signal processor 30 is adapted to trigger the gas sensor 40 once a predetermined set point for the condition sensor 20 is reached. The gas sensor 40 then starts tracking the solvent vapor concentration and transmits its readings back to the signal processor 30. The signal processor 30 can also be coupled to fuzzy logic control system 50. Fuzzy logic control system 50 utilizes the signal coming from the signal processor 30 and the signal coming from the program selector 60 to estimate the remaining drying time for a particular load of clothes.

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